

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-7 and 14-16 remain active in the application; Claims 8-13 stand withdrawn from consideration.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the interview held January 4, 2000, in the above-identified application. During the interview, Applicants' attorney explained the presently-claimed invention and explored various avenues of demonstrating patentability over the applied prior art, and discussed other issues raised in the Office Action. The discussion is summarized and expanded upon below.

The present invention is drawn to a lithium ion secondary battery, characterized by the presence of two adhesive resin layers having through holes, each of which layers bonds a positive electrode active material layer of a positive electrode and a negative electrode active material layer of a negative electrode, respectively, to a separator arranged between the positive and negative electrodes and which contains a lithium ion-containing electrolytic solution.

The rejections of Claims 1, 4-7 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by, and of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over, U.S. 5,741,609 to Chen et al, are respectfully traversed. Chen et al disclose an electrochemical cell employing adhesive layers 20 and 30 made from an adhesive material which "may be porous" (column 3, line 38). It is clear that a material which is porous does not necessarily have through holes as required herein, i.e., holes that penetrate an adhesive resin layer between an electrode and the separator. According to the use of through holes, electrolyte can be penetrated into the adhesive resin layer and can generate an active reaction. One skilled in the art reading Chen et al would be without a clue regarding the desirability of having adhesive resin layers with

through holes.

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over Chen et al be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-7 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

All of the presently pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to Issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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